

Drama News and Reviews

Plague Germ Hunt Gives Playhouse New Thriller

By Jay Carmody

"Panic in the Streets" is a film full of exciting implications and the picture which opened at the Playhouse last night before a distinguished invited audience lives up to most of them.

It is a blend of suspense and battle of the United States Public Health Service to forestall a pneumonic plague outbreak in a large city. It is the work of that master of melodrama, Elia Kazan, whose direction is expert if not invariably triumphant over the occasional clichés of the script.

Probably with a thought to the drama potential of bacteriological warfare, 20th Century-Fox has treated "Panic in the Streets" as a significant picture. This is to say that it has in nowise stinted on production and has cast it enticingly with a player group headed by Richard Widmark, Paul Douglas and Barbara Bel Geddes. All this consideration has not produced a great picture in "Panic in the Streets" but it has resulted in a superior melodrama or peculiar timeliness. It also is one quite worthy of the invitational premiere which ushered it into town.

The plague theme, accented in the search for a pneumonic germ carrier in the underworld of a teeming city, is what lifts the Playhouse film above the conventional screen melodrama. Its terror wings through Kazan's picture with the insistence of a police siren, the more impressively because the director dares to take the audience into his confidence before his exciting manhunt begins.

New Orleans provides the murky exciting backdrop for "Panic in the Streets." Here a smuggled alien is killed a few hours after stepping ashore. When his corpse discloses a veritable culture of pneumonic bacteria, Public Health Officer Widmark orders the body and all the victim's effects burned. With virtually every whit of evidence thus destroyed, he takes the case to the police department. Unless it can find the killers, not as murderers but as carriers of the pneumonic germ, a plague epidemic is threatened within the 48 hours.

The pursuit of a deadly germ which could spread across the country in a few days is a far more gripping quest than the screen has been dealing with lately.

It is lead by two dramatically contrasting personalities. One of these is Widmark's intense Public Health officer; the other Douglas's cynical police captain who only half believes the disaster implications in the murder of a nameless alien.

The suspense of the film is concentrated largely in the character of the Public Health man played by Widmark. He is the figure in the story who knows the death and panic potential of the situation. He is a man working against the deadline, deadline possible who must convey a sense of panic to the audience without succumbing to it himself.

It is a tricky acting assignment that Widmark brings off effectively in spite of more than one suggestion that he could not have mannerisms his doctor-detective uses.

Kazan's cameras find little that is actually new in their excited dash along the New Orleans waterfront underworld. The pictorial effects, however, are almost invariably above the standard studies of sleazy streets, city morgues, tenement hiding places for smuggled aliens and their criminal importers. They convey the constant feeling that pneumonic germs at large here cannot possibly be isolated in time to prevent the inevitable plague.

So long as the film's action is

'Sneak' Tonight At the Warner

The Warner Theater will have a Sneak Preview tonight of a new Warner Bros. picture, the title of which is being kept a secret. It is reported to be one of the year's bright comedies. It will be shown in conjunction with the regular showings of Burt Lancaster and Virginia Mayo in "The Flame and the Arrow."

The Sneak preview picture will be presented at 9:00 p.m. only.

Where and When Current Theater Attractions and Time of Showing

Ambassador—"The Flame and the Arrow": 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.
Capitol—"A Lady Without Passport": 10:30 a.m., 1:10, 3:35, 6:20, 9 and 11:40 p.m. Stage shows: 12:15, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05 and 10:50 p.m.

Columbia—"Duchess of Idaho": 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:35, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45 and 10:45 p.m.

Dupont—"The Lawless": 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45 and 11:45 p.m.

Keith's—"Treasure Island": 11:30 a.m., 2:05, 4:35, 7:10 and 9:45 p.m.

Little—"L'Elisir D'Amore": 12:35, 3:45, 7:00 and 10:20 p.m.

Metropolitan—"The Story of G. I. Joe": 1:15 a.m., 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.

National—"The Gunfighter": 11:15 a.m., 1:00, 2:50, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15 and 10:00 p.m.

Palace—"Three Little Words": 11:00 a.m., 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:50 p.m.

Playhouse—"Panic in the Streets": 9:30 a.m., 11:20, 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m.

Plaza—"Gigi": 11 a.m., 12:45, 2:30, 4:15, 6:7, 7:50, 9:35, 11:20 and 12:45 a.m.

Trans-Lux—"Kind Hearts and Coronets": 11:10 a.m., 1, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10 and 12 p.m.

Warner—"The Flame and the Arrow": 11:15 a.m., 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Sneak preview, 9:00 p.m.

AMUSEMENTS.

ARENA STAGE

FIRST TIME IN WASHINGTON! Legitimate Plays "In the Round" SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

Gala Opening Aug. 16, 8:30 P.M. Tickets now on sale for all performances

August 16 through September 2 Even. Except Sun.: 8:30 \$1.00 (inc. tax) Mat.: Wed. & Sat.: 5:30 \$1.00 (inc. tax) Mail & Phone Orders Accepted Air-Conditioned Phone BR. 8-0095

The Hippodrome 5th & N.Y. Ave., N.W.

COMFORTABLY COOL

Loew's COLUMBIA

Starts Tomorrow Open 10:45

IRMA'S NEW FUN HIT!

DEAN SINGS A HIT TUNES!

My Friend Irma Goes West

PERMANENT PRESENTS JOHN CORBINE DIANA LYNN CALVERT JERRY LYNN DEAN MARTIN JERRY LEWIS

with MAURIE WILSON as IRMA

Produced by HUL WALLIS

Screenplay by CHARLES BRUCE

Directed by CHARLES BRUCE

Ends Today "Duchess of Idaho" COLUMBIA Technicolor

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

Winning Pair Features 'Winslow Boy' at Olney

By Harry MacArthur

Basil Rathbone and Terence Rattigan's warm-hearted work, "The Winslow Boy," are the happy combination the Olney Theater has come up with to make this week brighter in the adjacent Maryland countryside. The two-star and play—should give you a thoroughly enjoyable evening, sending you away from the theater in the better spirits you are supposed to carry away from the theater.

This is another of those straw-hat rarities, a winter-caliber production which demands no favors and does not ask that you forgive it little things because this, after all, is the summer theater. Here is a well-schooled cast going about its business in a thoroughly competent manner in an S. S. Rylands period London drawing room that would be at home on Broadway. This is no unbridled enthusiasm at the end of an evening well-spent; it's a set of bare facts.

You probably don't have to be told that "The Winslow Boy" is a first-rate dramatization of an actual cause celebre in Great Britain unless you just arrived by flying saucer. It is the story of a father's fight, first to clear the name of his son, falsely accused of theft and forgery, and second to establish the right of an individual man to deal with his government on equal terms. Mr. Rattigan has made it humorous, touching and exciting by turns as Arthur Winslow takes up the cudgels for his son, Ronnie, and does not back down until he has made the Admiralty and the Crown permit right to prevail.

Mr. Rathbone plays Sir Robert Morton, the noted barrister who takes the case with a supercilious air and ultimately turns out to be a great champion of individual rights in British law. It is not precisely the sort of thing you might expect of Mr. Rathbone, in the light of some of his more

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.